

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A wireless digital communication system for prioritizing the forwarding of blocks of downlink data, the system including a base station and a plurality of user equipment mobile terminals (UEs), wherein a first subset of the UEs have pending downlink transmissions and a second subset of the UEs do not have pending downlink transmissions, the system comprising:

(a) means for the base station to receive blocks of downlink data for distribution to designated ones of the plurality of UEs in the first subset;

(b) means for the base station to transmit to each of the designated UEs in the first subset a request ~~for a~~ to begin downlink channel quality measurements ~~measurement to be performed~~, whereby the base station does not transmit a request to begin downlink channel quality measurements to the UEs in the second subset due to not having pending downlink transmissions;

(c) means for each of the designated UEs in the first subset to perform the downlink channel quality measurements ~~measurement~~;

(d) means for each of the designated UEs in the first subset to transmit the results of the downlink channel quality measurements ~~measurement~~ to the base station;

(e) means for the base station to establish a priority for the designated UEs in the first subset based on the results of the downlink channel quality measurements;

(f) means for the base station to transmit an allocation signal to each of the designated UEs in the first subset;

(g) means for each of the designated UEs in the first subset to set up transmission parameters in response to the allocation signal; and

(h) means for the base station to transmit the downlink data to the designated UEs in the first subset in accordance with the established priority.

2. (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the allocation signal indicates a particular coding rate, modulation type and at least one allocated time slot.

Claim 3 (canceled)

4. (currently amended): In a wireless digital communication system including a base station and plurality of user equipment mobile terminals (UEs), wherein a first subset of the UEs have pending downlink transmissions and a second subset of the UEs do not have pending downlink transmissions, a method for prioritizing the forwarding of blocks of downlink data, the method comprising:

(a) the base station receiving blocks of downlink data for distribution to designated ones of the plurality of UEs in the first subset;

(b) the base station transmitting to each of the designated UEs in the first subset a request ~~for a~~ to begin downlink channel quality measurements measurement to be performed, whereby the base station does not transmit a request to begin downlink channel quality measurements to the UEs in the second subset due to not having pending downlink transmissions;

(c) each of the designated UEs in the first subset performing the downlink channel quality measurements measurement;

(d) each of the designated UEs in the first subset transmitting the results of the downlink channel quality measurements ~~measurement~~ to the base station;

(e) the base station establishing a priority for the designated UEs in the first subset based on the results of the downlink channel quality measurements;

(f) the base station transmitting an allocation signal to each of the designated UEs in the first subset;

(g) each of the designated UEs in the first subset setting up transmission parameters in response to the allocation signal; and

(h) the base station transmitting the downlink data to the designated UEs in the first subset in accordance with the established priority.

5. (currently amended): The method of claim 4 wherein the allocation signal indicates a particular coding rate, modulation type and at least one allocated time slot.

Claims 6-12 (canceled)

13. (new): The system of claim 1 further comprising means for the base station to transmit a downlink physical channel allocation signal to the UE associated with the highest downlink channel quality measurement.

14. (new): The method of claim 4 further comprising the base station transmitting a downlink physical channel allocation signal to the UE associated with the highest downlink channel quality measurement.